Application No. 10826475 (Docket: CNTR.2223)
37 CFR 1.111 Amendment dated 08/03/2007
Reply to Office Action of 04/23/2007

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## AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

Please delete the section entitled "ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE" in its entirety and substitute the following section therefor:

### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention provides an apparatus and method for performing cryptographic operations on a plurality of input data blocks within a microprocessor,computing device, where the size cryptographic key that is employed is programmable. In one embodiment, an apparatus for performing cryptographic operations is provided. The apparatus includes a cryptographic instruction and execution logic. The cryptographic instruction is received by a microprocessorcomputing device as part of an instruction flow executing on the microprocessorcomputing-device. The cryptographic instruction prescribes one of the cryptographic operations, and also one of a plurality of cryptographic key sizes. The execution logic is operatively coupled to the cryptographic instruction. The execution logic executes the one of the cryptographic operations. The execution logic has a cryptographic key size controller that employs the one of a plurality of cryptographic key sizes during execution of the one of the cryptographic operations.